steel in the country and its exports during the last 2 years was as under:—

(In million tonnes)

YEAR	PROD-UCTION	EXPORT
1996-97	22.72 23.37	1.62 1.82
1997-98	18.75(Prov)	1.39(Prov)
1998-99 (April, 98-Jan.99)		

(c) At present Government has no plans to disinvest of public sector steel plants.

इस्पात उत्पादन का लक्ष्य

1367. **श्री गोपाल सिंह जी. सोलंकी**: क्या इस्पात और खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे किः

(क) क्या वर्ष 1997-98 और 1998-99 के लिए इस्पात उत्पाद का लक्ष्य निर्धारित कर दिया गया है;

(ख) क्या वर्ष 1999-2000 के दौरान इस लक्ष्य की प्राप्ति की संभावना है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो उनका ब्यौरा क्या है;

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण है; और

(ड) वर्ष 1999-2000 का लक्ष्य पूरा करने के लिए सरकार द्वारा क्या-क्या कदम उठाए गए है?

इस्पात तथा खान मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री रमेश बैस): (क) इस्पात उद्योग के उदारीकरण के पश्चात सरकारी ऐर निजी क्षेत्र मेम इस्पात के मुख्य उत्पादक अपने इस्पात के उत्पादन की योजना मांग – प्रक्षेपण के आधार पर बनाते है । देश में परिसज्जित इस्पात की कुल माग और उपलब्धता के अनुसार विकास आयुक्त, लोहा और इस्पात द्वारा वार्षिक आधार पर तैयार किए जाते है । 1997-98 और 1998-99 के दौरान परिसज्जित (कार्बन) इस्पात की कुल मांग और उत्पादन इस प्रकार रहाः—

(**मात्राः दस लाख टन**)

वर्ष	**कुल मांग**	**उत्पादन**
1997-98	22.38	22.57 (वास्तविक)
1998-99	24.43	29.11 (प्रक्षेपित)

(ख), (ग) और (ड) जी ,हां । सरकार ने इस्पात की मांग को पूरा करने के लिए कई उपाय किए है जैसे कि सरकारि क्षेत्र के इस्पात संयंत्रों का आधुनिकीकरण और विस्तार, निजी क्षेत्र में अतिरिक्त इस्पात उत्पादन क्षमताएं सृजित करने को प्रोत्साहित करने के विभिन्न नीतिगत उपाय अपनाना । इस्पात की घरेलू आवश्यकता को पूरा करने के लिए भारतीय इस्पात उत्पादम निरंतर उपाय कर रहे है जिनमे प्रौधोगिकी उन्नयन, उत्पादकता और उत्पादन में सुधार, उत्पादों की गुणवत्ता मेम सुधार और उपभोक्ताओं की आवश्यकताओं के अनुरूप उत्पाद मिश्र को अपनाना शामिल है ।

वर्ष 1999-2000 के केन्द्रीय बजट में , सरकार ने विभिन्न उपायों के माध्यम से भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था के पुनरूद्धार पर विशेष बल दिया है जिसमें अन्य बातों के साथ-साथ आधारभूत क्षेत्र, सिंचाई परियोजनाएं, आवास परियोजनाएं और ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों के जल आपूर्ति की योजना का त्वरित विकास शामिल है । इन उपायों से इस्पात की मांग में वृद्धि होने की संभावना है ।

(घ) उपर्युक्त (ख) , (ग) और (ड) को देखते हुए प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

Losses suffered by Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd.

1368. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the losses suffered by the Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited during each of the last three years;

(b) the reasons for the losses, if any; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to check such losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) The losses/ profits of RINL/VSP during the last three financial accounting years areas

under:—

Year	Profit(+)/Loss(-)
(Rs. In Crores)	
1995-96	(-) 204. 27
1996-97(April'96—Sept'97)	(-) 452:20
1997-98(Oct'97—March'98)	(+) 29.53 (*)

(b) The losses are explained chiefly by high capital related charges *viz.* interest and depreciation on the one hand and sluggish market conditions prevailing in domestic & international markets on the other.

(c) With a view to' assist RINL become financially viable, the Government approved a financial restructuring of Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. in May, 1998 and further directed RINL to prepare a comprehensive revival plan. The company engaged an internationally reputed consultant to study the turnaround strategies and prepare a comprehensive revival plan for long term viability of the company. The consultants have since submitted their report. And a proposal for the revival of the Plant is under inter-ministerial consideration.

Improvement in mining industries in North-East

1369. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL & MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan for improvement of mining industries in the North-Eastern States;

(b) the measures taken by Government for improvement of mining industries in the country;

(c) whether the Geological Survey of India has made a survey programme in our area bordering Myanmar; and

(*) [During 1997-98 (Six months period), the nominal profit is on account of write-back of interest due to Government following conversion of loans from Government into preference capital]

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) Yes, Sir. Sub-Regional office of Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) has been opened at Gauhati in April, 1998 as a measure to improve coordination between the North-Eastern States and the Central Government for the development of the mineral sector. For development of mineral industry in the North-Eastern States, candidate mineral deposits and their exploration status have been identified for quick exploitation. The National Mineral Policy, 1993 announced in tune with the economic liberalisation policy, opened up the mineral sector for private initiatives, both domestic and foreign. Prospecting and mining rights are granted by the concerned State Governments in accordance with the provisions of Mines and Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957 and the Rules framed thereunder.

(b) Consequent to the National Mineral Policy announced by the Government for the development of mining sector in India, the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 has been amended. Further, a Committee under the Chairmanship of the Secretary (Mines) was constituted in February, 1997 to review the existing laws and procedures for regulation and development of minerals and to suggest steps to make them compatible with the changed policies. The terms of references of this Committee, *inter-alia,* included delegation of powers to the State Governments for grant / renewal of prospecting licenses and mining leases and' other related approvals for minerals covered under part 'C of the First Schedule of the MM(R&D) Act and measures to prevent illegal mining etc.

(c) The Geological Survey of India (GSI) regularly takes up investigations for exploring various mineral occurrences in the North Eastern Region. Geological Survey of India, North Eastern Region,